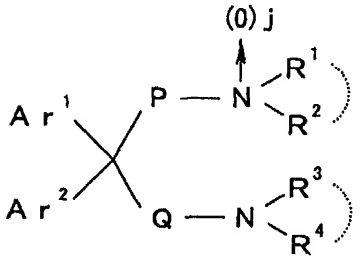
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A melanin-concentrating hormone antagonist containing a compound of the formula



wherein

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each an aromatic group optionally having substituents,

P and Q are each a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group which optionally contains ether oxygen or ether sulfur in a carbon chain and which optionally has substituents,

R^1 and R^3 are each (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an acyl group or (iii) a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituents,

R^2 and R^4 are each (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group optionally having substituents or (iii) an alkylcarbonyl group optionally having substituents,

R^1 and R^2 or R^3 and R^4 optionally form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a monocyclic or fused nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group optionally having substituents, and

j is 0 or 1,

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

2. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each (i) a C_{6-14} aryl group or (ii) a 5 to 14-membered monocyclic or

fused aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and oxygen atom, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group (group Aa) consisting of

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group,

(c) a nitro group,

(d) a cyano group,

(e) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(f) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(g) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

(h) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group,

(i) a hydroxy group,

(j) an amino group,

(k) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(l) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(m) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(n) a formyl group,

(o) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(p) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(q) a carboxyl group,

(r) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(s) a carbamoyl group,

(t) a mono-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(u) a di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(v) a sulfo group,

(w) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group,

(x) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group,

(y) a C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s)

selected from above-mentioned (a) to (x),

(z) a C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the above-mentioned (a) to (x),

(aa) an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-carbonyl group,

(ab) an optionally halogenated 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic ring-carbonyl group,

(ac) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino group,

(ad) a C_{6-10} aryl-carbonylamino group and

(ae) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group,

P and Q are each a divalent C_{1-6} aliphatic hydrocarbon group which optionally contains ether oxygen or ether sulfur in a carbon chain and which is optionally substituted by oxo group or thioxo group;

R^1 and R^3 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) acyl group represented by $-CO-R^a$, $-CONR^aR^b$, $-SO-R^a$, $-SO_2-R^a$, $-CONR^aR^b$, $-COO-R^a$, $-(C=S)O-R^a$, $-(C=S)NR^aR^b$, $-SONR^aR^b$, $-SO_2NR^aR^b$, $-SO-O-R^a$ or $-SO_2-O-R^a$, wherein R^a is (A) hydrogen atom; (B) carboxyl group; (C) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group (group Ba) consisting of

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group,

(c) a nitro group,

(d) a cyano group,

(e) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(f) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(g) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

(h) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group,

(i) a hydroxy group,

(j) an amino group,

(k) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(l) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(m) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(n) a formyl group,

(o) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group,

(p) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(q) a carboxyl group,

(r) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(s) a carbamoyl group,

(t) a mono-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group,

(u) a di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group,

(v) a sulfo group,

(w) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group,

(x) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group,

(y) a C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x),

(z) a C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x),

(zz) a 5 to 7-membered heterocyclic group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x),

(aa) a di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(ab) a sulfamoyl group,

(ac) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino group,

(ad) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group,

(ae) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group,

(af) a C_{6-10} aryl-carbonyl group,

(ag) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(ah) a C_{6-10} aryl-carbonylamino group,

(ai) a C_{6-10} aryl-carbamoyl group,

(aj) a C_{7-16} aralkylaminocarbonyl group,

(ak) a C_{7-16} aralkylcarbonylamino group and

(al) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonyloxy group;

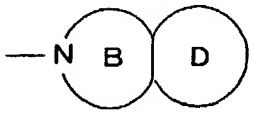
(D) a 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom, which

optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (a) substituent selected from group Aa,
(b) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group Ba,
(c) oxo group and
(d) thioxo group; or
(E) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group;
R^b is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or
(iii) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group optionally having 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group Ba;
R^2 and R^4 are each (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from group Ba or (iii) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally having substituents selected from group Ba;
R^1 and R^2 or R^3 and R^4 may form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group of
(i) the formula

wherein ring A is a 4 to 8-membered ring optionally substituted by hydroxy or oxo, V is a group represented by the formula >O, >C=O, >C(W)-W^a or >N-W (W is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group Ba, or (c) 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which optionally has 1 to 5

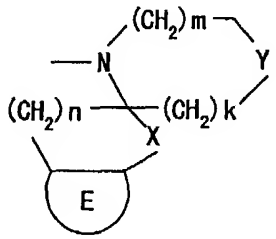
substituent(s) selected from group Aa, W^a is hydrogen atom, hydroxy group or C_{1-6} alkyl group),

(ii) the formula



wherein ring B is monocyclic or bicyclic 4 to 12-membered ring optionally substituted by 1 or 2 oxo group(s) or 1 to 5 C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), ring D is a 4 to 12-membered aromatic ring optionally having 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group Aa or

(iii) the formula



wherein ring E is a 4 to 12-membered aromatic ring optionally having 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group Aa;

X is $-CH_2-$, $-CO-$ or $-CH(OH)-$;

Y is $-CH_2-$, $-O-$ or $-NW^b-$ (W^b is (a) hydrogen atom or (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from group Ba);

k and m are each an integer of 0 to 4, and k+m is an integer of 1 to 4;

n is an integer of 1 to 3.

3. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each (i) a C_{6-14} aryl group or (ii) a 5 to 14-membered monocyclic or fused aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and oxygen atom, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group (group A)

consisting of

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group,

(c) a nitro group,

(d) a cyano group,

(e) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(f) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(g) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

(h) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group,

(i) a hydroxy group,

(j) an amino group,

(k) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(l) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(m) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(n) a formyl group,

(o) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group,

(p) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(q) a carboxyl group,

(r) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(s) a carbamoyl group,

(t) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(u) a di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(v) a sulfo group,

(w) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group,

(x) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group,

(y) a C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the above-mentioned (a) to (x), and

(z) a C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the above-mentioned (a) to (x),

P and Q are each a C_{1-6} aliphatic hydrocarbon group which optionally contains ether oxygen or ether sulfur in a carbon chain and which is optionally substituted by oxo group or thioxo group,

R^1 and R^3 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) an acyl group represented by $-CO-R^a$, $-CONR^aR^b$, $-SO-R^a$, $-SO_2-R^a$, $-CONR^aR^b$, $-COO-R^a$, $-(C=S)O-R^a$ or $-(C=S)NR^aR^b$ wherein R^a is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) carboxyl group,

(c) a (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group (group B) consisting of

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group,

(c) a nitro group,

(d) a cyano group,

(e) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(f) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(g) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

(h) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group,

(i) a hydroxy group,

(j) an amino group,

(k) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(l) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(m) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(n) a formyl group,

(o) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group,

(p) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(q) a carboxyl group,

(r) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(s) a carbamoyl group,

(t) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(u) a di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(v) a sulfo group,

(w) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group,

(x) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group,

(y) a C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s)

selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x),

(z) a C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x) and

(zz) a 5 to 7-membered heterocyclic group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x), or

(d) a 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group (group C) consisting of

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group,

(c) a nitro group,

(d) a cyano group,

(e) a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of (aa) a halogen atom, (bb) C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group, (cc) nitro group, (dd) cyano group, (ee) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, (ff) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (gg) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, (hh) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (jj) amino group, (kk) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group, (ll) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group, (mm) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group, (nn) a formyl group, (oo) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, (pp) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group, (qq) carboxyl group, (rr) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (ss) carbamoyl group, (tt) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, (uu) a di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, (vv) a sulfo group, (ww) C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, (xx) C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, (yy) C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (aa) to (xx), (zz) C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (aa) to (xx) and (zzz) 5 to 7-membered

heterocyclic group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (aa) to (xx),

(f) an optionally halogenated C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(g) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

(h) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkylthio group,

(i) a hydroxy group,

(j) an amino group,

(k) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(l) a di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group,

(m) an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(n) a formyl group,

(o) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group,

(p) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group,

(q) a carboxyl group,

(r) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(s) a carbamoyl group,

(t) a mono-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(u) a di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group,

(v) a sulfo group,

(w) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group,

(x) a C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group,

(y) a C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x) and

(z) a C_{6-10} aryloxy group optionally having 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the aforementioned (a) to (x), and

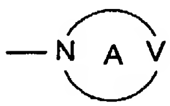
R^b is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group) or

(iii) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group B,

R^2 and R^4 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) C_{1-6} alkyl optionally having substituents selected from group B or (iii) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally having substituents selected from

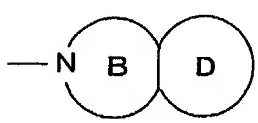
group B,

R^1 and R^2 or R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group represented by (i) the formula



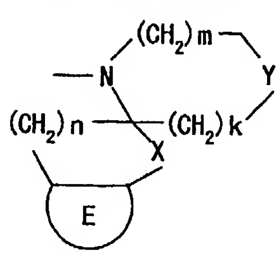
wherein ring A is a 4 to 8-membered ring optionally substituted by hydroxy or oxo, V is a group represented by the formula >O, >C=O, >C-(W)W^a or >N-W (W is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) (1) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (2) C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) C_{2-6} alkynyl group, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, (5) C_{6-14} aryl group or (6) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group B, or (c) 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 4 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group A, W^a is hydrogen atom or hydroxy group),

(ii) the formula



wherein ring B is monocyclic or bicyclic 4 to 12-membered ring optionally substituted by oxo group or 1 to 5 C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), ring D is a 4 to 12-membered aromatic ring optionally having 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group A or

(iii) the formula



wherein ring E is a 5 to 10-membered aromatic ring optionally

having 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from group A

X is $-CH_2-$, $-CO-$ or $-CH(OH)-$,

Y is $-CH_2-$, $-O-$ or $-NW^b-$ (W^b is (a) hydrogen atom or (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from group B);

k+m is an integer of 1 to 4; and

n is an integer of 1 to 3.

4. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each (i) a phenyl group optionally substituted by halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy group or (ii) a 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom.

5. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein P and Q are each a C_{1-6} alkylene group.

6. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein j is 0.

7. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein

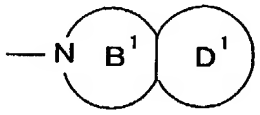
R^1 is (i) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having a 5 or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, (ii) C_{7-16} aralkyl group optionally having nitro, amino or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl or (iii) cyclohexyl group fused with benzene ring optionally having C_{1-6} alkoxy;

R^2 is (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) C_{1-6} alkyl group or (iii) C_{7-16} aralkyl group; or R^1 and R^2 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group represented by

(i) the formula

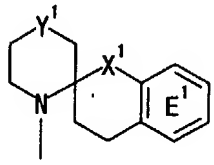
wherein ring A^1 is a 4 to 8-membered ring optionally substituted by hydroxy or oxo, V^1 is a group represented by the formula >O, $>C(W^1)-W^{a1}$ or $>N-W^1$ (W^1 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group and optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, (c) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 1 or 2 C_{6-10} aryl group(s) or (d) pyridyl group, W^{a1} is hydrogen atom, hydroxy group or C_{1-6} alkyl group),

(ii) the formula



wherein ring B^1 is a monocyclic or bicyclic 5 to 10-membered ring optionally substituted by oxo group or 1 or 2 C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), ring D^1 is a benzene ring optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group or

(iii) the formula



wherein ring E^1 is a benzene ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group, nitro group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

X^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-CO-$, and

Y^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$,

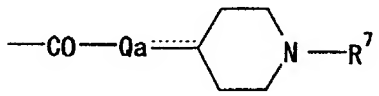
R^3 is (i) hydrogen atom,

(ii) a group represented by the formula $-CO-R^5$ (R^5 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) carboxyl group, (c) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (d) C_{5-6} cycloalkyl group optionally having C_{1-6} alkoxy, and which is

fused with benzene ring or (e) 5 or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom, which optionally has 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C_{6-10} aryl group, C_{6-10} aryl-carbonylamino group),

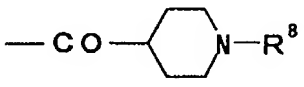
(iii) a group represented by the formula $-CO-Alk_0-R^6$ [Alk_0 is C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having hydroxy group, R^6 is (a) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, nitro, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy and C_{6-10} aryl group, (b) C_{6-10} aryloxy group, (c) 5 or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, (e) carboxyl group, (f) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (g) amino group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, (h) 5 to 7-membered heterocyclic ring optionally having hydroxy, (i) C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group, (j) C_{6-10} aryl-carbonyl group or (k) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy group],

(iv) a group represented by the formula



wherein Qa is a group represented by the formula $-(CH_2)s-$ (s is an integer of 1 to 3) or $-(CH_2)t-CH=$ (t is an integer of 0 to 2) and R^7 is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(v) a group represented by the formula

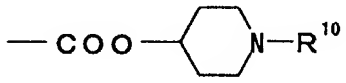


wherein R^8 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}

alkoxy-carbonyl, morpholino and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino, (c) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (d) a group represented by the formula $-CO-R^d$ (R^d is C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having halogen atom or 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom), (e) a group represented by the formula $-CO-(CH_2)r^1-R^e$ (r^1 is an integer of 1 to 3, R^e is C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group or 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom) or (f) a group represented by $-CONH-R^f$ (R^f is C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{6-14} aryl group),

(vi) a group represented by the formula $-COOR^9$ (R^9 is optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group),

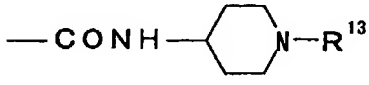
(vii) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{10} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, optionally halogenated nicotinoyl group or optionally halogenated isonicotinoyl group,

(viii) a group represented by the formula $-CONR^{11}-R^{12}$ (R^{11} is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^{12} is C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of (a) hydroxy, (b) amino, (c) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino, (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, (e) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (f) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy, (g) sulfamoyl and (h) 5 to 7-membered heterocyclic group optionally substituted by oxo, and (i) C_{6-14} aryl group),

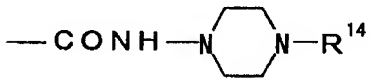
(ix) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{13} is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group

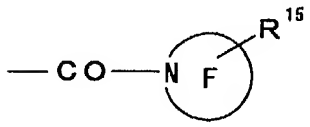
consisting of a hydroxy and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (c) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl or (e) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally having C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl,

(x) a group represented by the formula



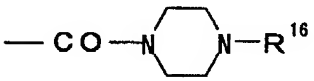
wherein R^{14} is C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{7-16} aralkyl group,

(xi) a group represented by the formula



wherein ring F is 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group optionally fused with benzene ring and R^{15} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(xii) a group represented by the formula



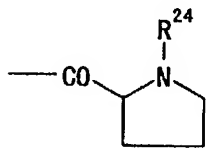
wherein R^{16} is (a) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (b) a formyl group, (c) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group or (d) 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic ring-carbonyl group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom,

(xiii) a group represented by the formula $-SO_2-R^{17}$ (R^{17} is (i) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group, (ii) C_{2-6} alkenyl group or (iii) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having C_{1-6} alkyl),

(xiv) C_{7-16} aralkyl group optionally having 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) or C_{1-6} alkoxy group,

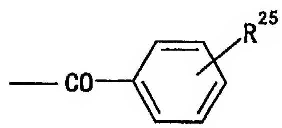
(xv) C_{1-6} alkyl group substituted by 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom,

(xvi) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{24} is hydrogen atom or C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(xvii) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{25} is hydrogen atom, C_{6-10} aryl group, C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group, C_{6-10} aryloxy group, halogen atom, C_{6-10} aryl-carbonylamino group or C_{6-10} aryl-carbamoyl group;

(xviii) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk-NR^{27}-CO-Alk_2-O-Alk_3-R^{28}$

[Alk is C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents; R^{27} is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group; Alk_2 and Alk_3 are the same or different and each is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents; R^{28} is C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituents or hydrogen atom];

(xix) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk_2-NR^{27}-CO-Alk_3-R^{29}$

[Alk_2, Alk_3 and R^{27} are as defined above; R^{29} is (1) C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituent or (2) 5 to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group optionally having substituent, which contains, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom];

(xx) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk-NR^{27}-CO-Alk_2-NR^{30}-Alk_3-R^{31}$

[Alk, R^{27}, Alk_2, Alk_3 are as defined above; R^{30} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group; and R^{31} is C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituents];

(xxi) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk-NR^{27}-CO-Alk_2-NR^{32}-CO-O-Alk_3-R^{31}$

[Alk, R^{27}, Alk_2, Alk_3 and R^{31} are as defined above; and R^{32} is the same as the aforementioned R^{27}];

(xxii) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk-CO-NR^{27}-Alk_2-R^{31}$

[Alk, R^{27}, Alk_2 and R^{31} are as defined above]; or

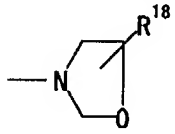
(xxiii) a group represented by the formula

$-CO-Alk-O-CO-O-Alk_2-R^{31}$

[Alk, Alk_2 and R^{31} are as defined above];

R^4 is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group;

or R^3 and R^4 may form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group represented by the formula



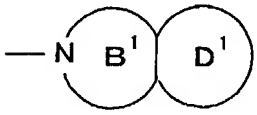
wherein R^{18} is halogen atom, oxo group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group.

8. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein R^1 is (i) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 5 or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, (ii) C_{7-16} aralkyl group optionally having nitro, amino or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl or (iii) cyclohexyl group fused with benzene ring optionally having C_{1-6} alkoxy, R^2 is (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) C_{1-6} alkyl group or (iii) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, or R^1 and R^2 may form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group represented by

(i) the formula

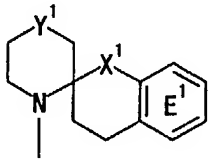
wherein ring A^1 is a 4 to 8-membered ring optionally substituted by hydroxy or oxo, V^1 is a group represented by the formula >O, >C-(W^1)W^{a1} or >N-W^1 (W^1 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group and C_{1-6} alkoxy group or (c) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 1 or 2 C_{6-10} aryl group(s), W^{a1} is hydrogen atom or hydroxy group),

(ii) the formula



wherein ring B^1 is a monocyclic or bicyclic 5 to 10-membered ring optionally substituted by oxo group or 1 or 2 C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), ring D^1 is a benzene ring optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group or

(iii) the formula



wherein ring E^1 is a benzene ring optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group, nitro group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group

X^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-CO-$,

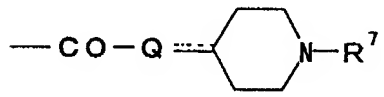
Y^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$,

R^3 is (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) a group represented by the

formula $-CO-R^5$ (R^5 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) carboxyl group, (c) C_{1-6} alkyl group, (d) C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group optionally having alkoxy, and which is fused with benzene ring or (e) 5 or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom),

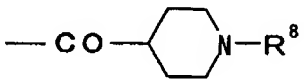
(iii) a group represented by the formula $-CO-(CH_2)r^1-R^6$ (r^1 is an integer of 1 to 3, R^6 is (a) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, nitro, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy, (b) C_{6-14} aryloxy group, (c) 5 or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom, (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, (e) carboxyl group, (f) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (g) amino group optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl or (h) 5 or 6-membered cyclic amino group optionally having hydroxy),

(iv) a group represented by the formula



(Q is a group represented by the formula $-(CH_2)s-$ (s is an integer of 1 to 3) or $-(CH_2)t-CH=$ (t is an integer of 0 to 2), R^7 is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group),

(v) a group represented by the formula



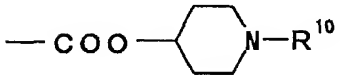
(R^8 is (a) hydrogen atom, (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, morpholino and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino, (c) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (d) a group represented by the formula $-CO-R^d$ (R^d is C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having halogen atom or

5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom),

(e) a group represented by the formula $-CO-(CH_2)r^1-R^e$ (r^1 is an integer of 1 to 3, R^e is C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group or 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 or 2 heteroatom(s) selected from nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom) or (f) a group represented by $-CONH-R^f$ (R^f is C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{6-14} aryl group)),

(vi) a group represented by the formula $-COOR^9$ (R^9 is optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group),

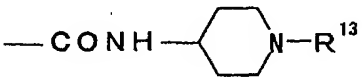
(vii) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{10} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, mono or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, optionally halogenated nicotinoyl group or optionally halogenated isonicotinoyl group,

(viii) a group represented by the formula $-CONR^{11}-R^{12}$ (R^{11} is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group, R^{12} is C_{1-6} alkyl optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of (a) hydroxy, (b) amino, (c) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino, (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, (e) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (f) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy, (g) sulfamoyl and (f) 5 or 6-membered cyclic amine optionally substituted by oxo),

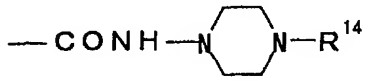
(ix) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{13} is (a) a hydrogen atom, (b) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (c) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, (d) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of a halogen and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl or (e) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group

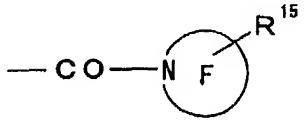
optionally having C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl,

(x) a group represented by the formula



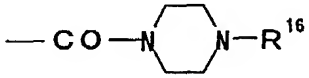
wherein R^{14} is C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{7-16} aralkyl group,

(xi) a group represented by the formula



wherein ring F is 5 to 7-membered cyclic amino group optionally fused with benzene ring, R^{15} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group,

(xii) a group represented by the formula



wherein R^{16} is (a) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (b) a formyl group, (c) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group or (d) a 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic ring-carbonyl group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom,

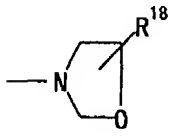
(xiii) a group represented by the formula $-SO_2-R^{17}$ (R^{17} is (i) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 5 or 6-membered nitrogen-containing ring group, (ii) C_{2-6} alkenyl group or (iii) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally having C_{1-6} alkyl),

(xiv) C_{7-16} aralkyl group optionally having 1 to 3 halogen atom(s), or

(xv) C_{1-6} alkyl group substituted by 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom,

R^4 is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group,

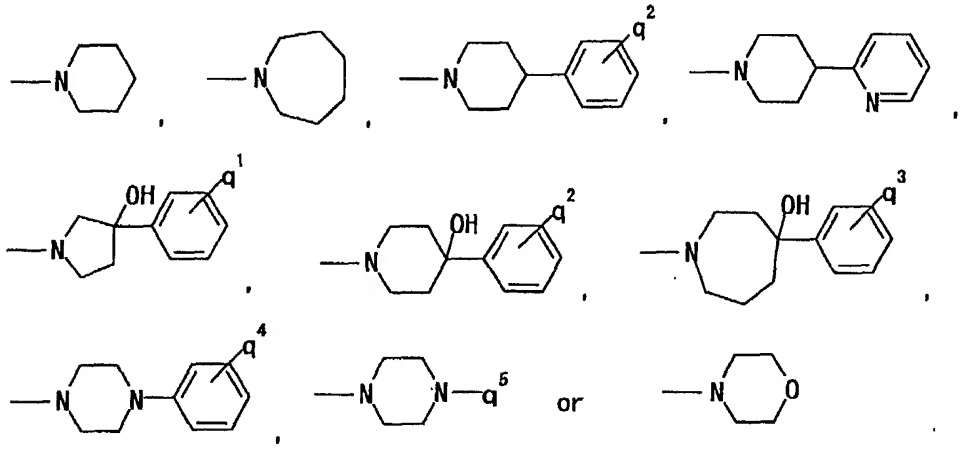
or R^3 and R^4 may form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group of the formula



wherein R^{18} is halogen atom, oxo group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group.

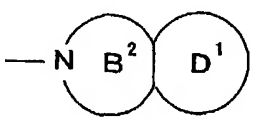
9. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group represented by

(i) the formula

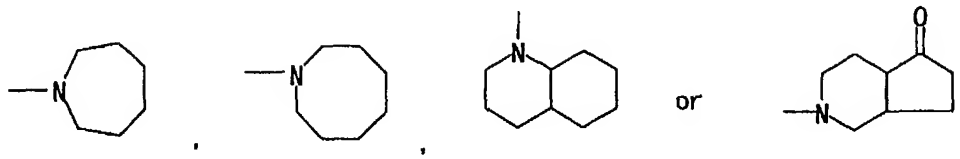


wherein q^1 is hydrogen atom or halogen atom, q^2 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{1-6} alkoxy group, q^3 is hydrogen atom or halogen atom, q^4 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy group, q^5 is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having 1 or 2 C_{6-10} aryl group(s),

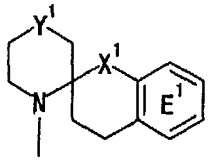
(ii) the formula



wherein ring B^2 is represented by the formula

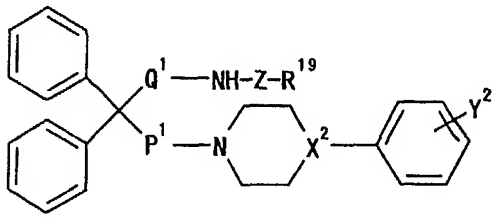


wherein ring D^1 is benzene ring optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group or (iii) the formula



wherein ring E^1 is benzene ring optionally having 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy group, nitro group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino group and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, X^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-CO-$, and Y^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$.

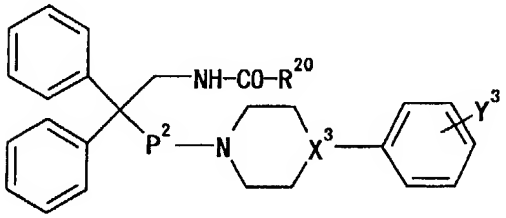
10. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the formula



wherein R^{19} is (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) carboxyl, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (iv) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino and C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonylamino, (v) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino group or (iv) C_{6-14} aryloxy group; P^1 is C_{1-3} alkylene group; Q^1 is C_{1-3} alkylene group; X^2 is CH, C-OH or N;

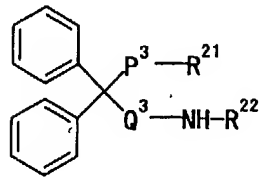
Y^2 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{1-6} alkoxy group; and Z is CO, SO or SO_2.

11. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the formula

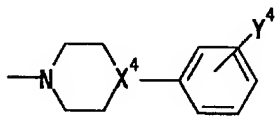


wherein R^{20} is (i) hydrogen atom or (ii) C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonylamino and C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonylamino; P^2 is C_{1-3} alkylene group; X^3 is CH, C-OH or N; Y^3 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy group.

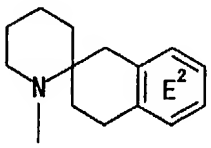
12. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the formula



wherein R^{21} is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group represented by (i) the formula



wherein X^4 is CH or N, Y^4 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy group or (ii) the formula



wherein ring E^2 is benzene ring optionally having 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy,

R^{22} is (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) C_{7-16} aralkyl group, (iii) formyl group, (iv) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, (v) C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group optionally having C_{1-6} alkyl or (vi) C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl group optionally having 1 to 4 C_{1-6} alkyl; P^3 is C_{1-3} alkylene group; and Q^3 is C_{1-3} alkylene group.

13. The antagonist of claim 1, wherein the compound is

1-(5-amino-4,4-diphenylpentyl)-4-phenylpiperidine or a salt thereof,

3,4-dihydro-6-methoxy-1'-(5-amino-4,4-diphenylpentyl)-spiro[naphthalene-2(1H),2'-piperidine] or a salt thereof,

1-[5-amino-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpentyl]-4-phenylpiperidine or a salt thereof,

1-[5-amino-4,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)pentyl]-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazine or a salt thereof,

3,4-dihydro-6-methoxy-1'-(6-amino-4,4-diphenylhexyl)-spiro[naphthalene-2(1H),2'-piperidine] or a salt thereof,

3,4-dihydro-6,7-dimethoxy-1'-(7-amino-4,4-diphenylheptyl)-spiro[naphthalene-2(1H),2'-piperidine] or a salt thereof,

4,4-diphenyl-5-formylamino-1-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentane or a salt thereof,

1-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-formylamino-4,4-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

4,4-diphenyl-1-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)-5-(tosylamino)pentane or a salt thereof,

4,4-diphenyl-1-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-(tosylamino)pentane or a salt thereof,

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-formylamino-4-phenyl-1-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentane or a salt thereof,

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-formylamino-4-phenyl-1-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)pentane or a salt thereof,

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-formylamino-4-phenylpentane or a salt thereof,

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-[4-(diphenylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-formylamino-4-phenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-formylamino-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentane or a salt thereof,

4,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-(formylamino)pentane or a salt thereof,

1-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-6-formylamino-5,5-diphenylhexane or a salt thereof,

1-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-6-formylamino-4,4-diphenylhexane or a salt thereof,

4,4-diphenyl-1-(4-phenylpiperidino]-6-(tosylamino)hexane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-formylamino-5-(4-hydroxy-4-phenylpiperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-1-yl]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-formylamino-2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

7-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-4,4-

diphenylheptane or a salt thereof,

5-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-1-formylamino-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-formylamino-5-[4-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-formylamino-5-[4-hydroxy-4-(2-pyridyl)piperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-acetylamino-5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

1-acetoacetylamino-5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentane or a salt thereof,

ethyl N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]succinamate or a salt thereof,

N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]succinamic acid or a salt thereof,

1-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]-3-ethylurea or a salt thereof,

N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]methanesulfonamide or a salt thereof,

phenyl N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]carbamate or a salt thereof,

1-acetylamino-5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)pentane or a salt thereof,

ethyl N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]oxamate or a salt thereof,

ethyl N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]malonamate or a salt thereof,

ethyl N-[5-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxypiperidino]-2,2-diphenylpentyl]glutaramate or a salt thereof,

benzyl 2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof,

tert-butyl 2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof,

4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptylamine or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)acetamide or a salt thereof,

N-benzyl-N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)amine or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-N-(3-methoxybenzyl)amine or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-N-(2-methoxybenzyl)amine or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-N-(2-fluorobenzyl)amine or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-2-thiophenecarboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-2-phenylacetamide or a salt thereof,

N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-N-(2-thienylmethyl)amine or a salt thereof, or

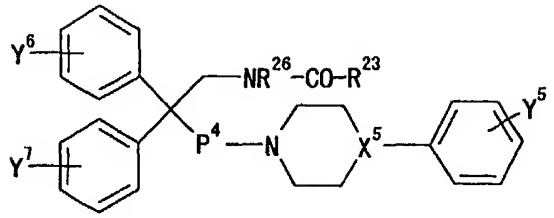
N-benzyl-N-(4,4-diphenyl-7-(4-phenylpiperidino)heptyl)-N-methylamine or a salt thereof.

14. The antagonist of claim 1, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or therapy of a disease caused by melanin-concentrating hormone.

15. The antagonist of claim 1, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or therapy of obesity.

16. The antagonist of claim 1, which is an agent for suppressing food intake.

17. A compound represented by the formula



(Ia)

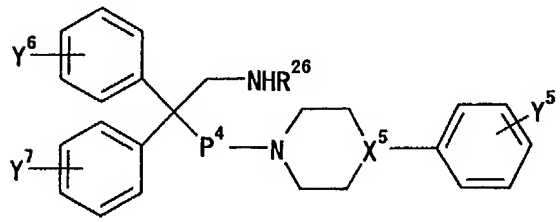
wherein R^{23} is C_{1-6} alkyl group having C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonylamino optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{1-6} alkyl; P^4 is C_{1-3} alkylene group; X^5 is CH, C-OH or N; Y^5 is hydrogen atom, halogen atom or C_{1-6} alkoxy group; R^{26} is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group; Y^6 and Y^7 are the same or different and each is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

18. The compound of claim 17, wherein R^{26} is hydrogen atom.

19. Benzyl 2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, 4-chlorobenzyl 2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, 3-chlorobenzyl 2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, benzyl 2-(N-(2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)-N-methylamino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, benzyl 2-((5-(4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, benzyl 2-((5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, benzyl 2-((5-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof, or 3-chlorobenzyl 2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-

phenylpiperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethylcarbamate or a salt thereof.

20. A production method of a compound of claim 17, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula

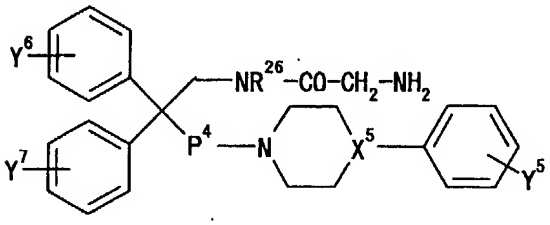


wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 17 or a salt thereof with a reactive derivative of an organic acid of the formula

R^{23}-COOH

wherein R^{23} is as defined in claim 17.

21. A production method of a compound of claim 17, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula



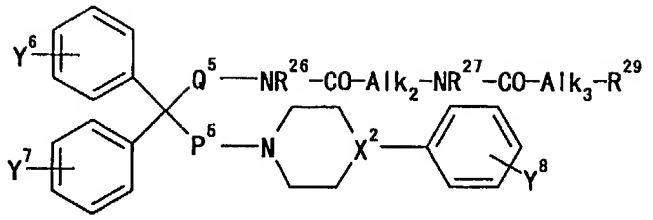
wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 17, or a salt thereof with a reactive derivative of the formula

R^{32}-X

wherein R^{32} is C_{7-16} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, and X is a leaving group.

22. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of claim 17.

23. A compound represented by the formula



(Ib)

wherein R^{26} and R^{27} are the same or different and each is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group; Alk_2 and Alk_3 are the same or different and each is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents; R^{29} is (1) C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituents or (2) 5 to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group optionally having substituents, which contains, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom; X^2 is CH, C-OH or N; P^5 and Q^5 are the same or different and each is C_{1-6} alkylene group; Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 are the same or different and each is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

24. The compound of claim 23, wherein Alk_2 and Alk_3 are the same or different and each is a bond, or C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy, amino and C_{6-10} aryl; R^{29} is (1) C_{6-10} aryl group or (2) 5 to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing, besides carbon atom, 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom and sulfur atom, which optionally has substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro, halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{6-10} aryl.

25. The compound of claim 23 or 24, wherein R^{29} is indol-2-yl optionally having substituents.

26. The compound of claim 23 or 24, wherein R^{29} is indol-2-yl optionally having substituents selected from halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and hydroxy.

27. N-(2-((2,2-Diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
5-chloro-N-(2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-chloroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-fluoroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-methoxyindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-hydroxyindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)-amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
N-(2-((5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)-amino)-2-oxoethyl)-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,
5-chloro-N-(2-((5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-

diphenylpentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

5-chloro-N-(2-((5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)piperidino)-2,2-diphenylpentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-fluoroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-methoxyindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-chloroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

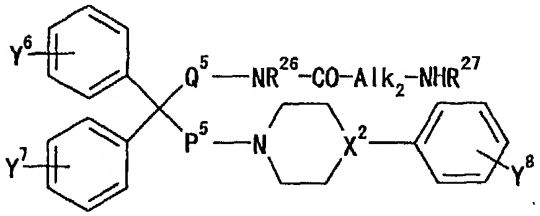
N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-chloroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof,

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)indole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof, or

N-(2-((2,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)-piperidino)pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-5-chloroindole-2-carboxamide or a salt thereof.

28. A production method of a compound of claim 23, which

comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula



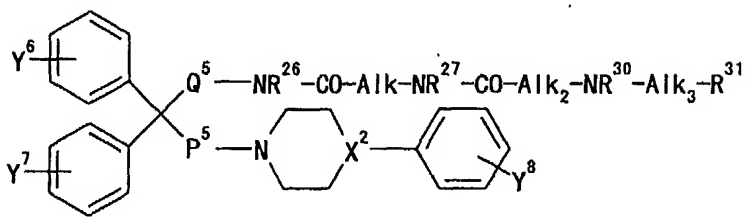
wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 23, or a salt thereof with a reactive derivative of an organic acid of the formula

R^{29}-Alk_3-COOH

wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 23.

29. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of claim 23.

30. A compound represented by the formula



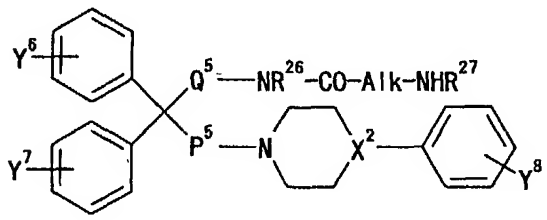
(Ic)

wherein R^{26} and R^{27} are the same or different and each is hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group; R^{30} is hydrogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group; Alk is C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents; Alk_2 and Alk_3 are the same or different and each is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents; R^{31} is C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituents; X^2 is CH, C-OH or N; P^5 and Q^5 are the same or different and each is C_{1-6} alkylene group; Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 are the same or different and each is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

31. The compound of claim 30, wherein Alk is C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy, amino and C_{6-10} aryl; Alk_2 and Alk_3 are the same or different and each is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy, amino and C_{6-10} aryl; R^{31} is C_{6-10} aryl group optionally having substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{6-10} aryl.

32. N-(2-((2-((2,2-Diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)-amino)-2-oxoethyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-phenylacetamide or a salt thereof,
2-anilino-N-(2-((2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)-pentyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)acetamide or a salt thereof, or
2-(((benzylamino)carbonyl)amino)-N-(2,2-diphenyl-5-(4-phenylpiperidino)pentyl)acetamide or a salt thereof.

33. A production method of a compound of claim 30, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula

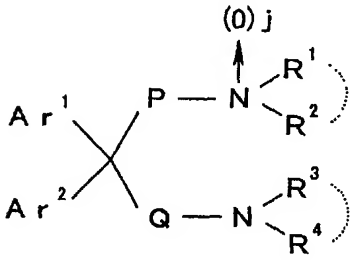


wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 30, or a salt thereof, with,
(1) when Alk_2 is C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having substituents, a reactive derivative of an organic acid compound of the formula
R^{31}-Alk_3-NR^{30}-Alk_2-COOH
wherein each symbol is as defined in claim 30,

(2) when Alk_2 is a bond, a reactive derivative of the formula R^{31}-Alk_3-NR^{30}-CO-X or R^{31}-Alk_3-NCO
wherein X is leaving group, and other symbols are as defined in claim 30.

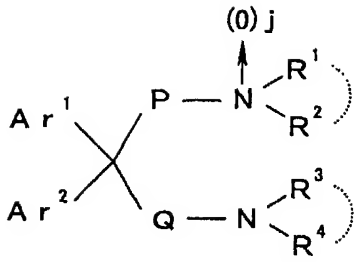
34. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of claim 30.

35. A method for antagonizing melanin-concentrating hormone, comprising administering, to a mammal, an effective amount of a compound of the formula



wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each an aromatic group optionally having substituents,
P and Q are each a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group which optionally contains ether oxygen or ether sulfur in a carbon chain and which optionally has substituents,
R^1 and R^3 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) acyl group or (iii) a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituents,
R^2 and R^4 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group optionally having substituents or (iii) an alkylcarbonyl group optionally having substituents, R^1 and R^2 or R^3 and R^4 optionally form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a monocyclic or fused nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group optionally having substituents, and j is 0 or 1, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

36. Use of a compound of the formula



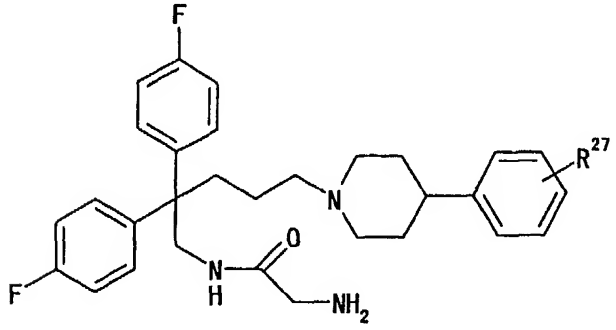
wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each an aromatic group optionally having substituents,

P and Q are each a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group which optionally contains ether oxygen or ether sulfur in a carbon chain and which optionally has substituents,

R^1 and R^3 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) acyl group or (iii) hydrocarbon group optionally having substituents,

R^2 and R^4 are each (i) hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group optionally having substituents or (iii) an alkylcarbonyl group optionally having substituents, R^1 and R^2 or R^3 and R^4 optionally form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a monocyclic or fused nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group optionally having substituents, and j is 0 or 1, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, for production of a melanin-concentrating hormone antagonist.

37. A compound represented by the formula



wherein R^{27} is hydrogen atom, halogen atom, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy group, or a salt thereof.